

Colombian library goes beyond books to keep stories alive

Level 2: Intermediate – Teacher's notes

Article summary: The article describes the efforts being made to promote the culture of an ethnic minority group in Colombia.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Vocabulary

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. The purpose of this activity is to introduce the general topic area of South America and to find out what students know about this area. Note that French Guiana is a department of France rather than a sovereign country, so it is not one of the 12 countries. Brazil is the only Portuguese-speaking country on the continent. The others are Spanish-speaking with the exception of Suriname, which was formerly a Dutch colony.

Key:

1. Bogotá
2. Portuguese
3. twelve
4. peso
5. Chile

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Note that *petroglyph* is a specialized word and people usually just refer to *rock carvings*. An *outing* is a local excursion taken by a family or a group. The verb *abandon* is often used with words such as *idea*, *plan*, or *policy*. An *abandoned* building is empty and often derelict or ruined. Note that the word *indigenous* is not included in this exercise but is important to the text as whole, so it may be a good idea to check its meaning with the class (indigenous people – people who lived in a place for a very long time before other people came to live there).

Key:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. petroglyph | 6. elder |
| 2. etch | 7. abandoned |
| 3. ancestor | 8. sceptical |
| 4. initiative | 9. displace |
| 5. outing | 10. heritage |

3. Comprehension check

- a. The answers given are only suggested answers and students may correctly answer the questions in different ways, e.g., in item 4 they may say 'She enjoys her trips to meet the elders' or similar.

Key:

1. False. They go there to take photos or make drawings of the stones.
2. False. They go there every month.
3. True
4. False. She likes visiting the elders.
5. True
6. False. She was sceptical about it.
7. True
8. True
9. True
10. False. The concept of memory is more important.

4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs. Ask students to check their answers by referring back to the text to see the phrases in context.

Key:

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. f | 4. b |
| 2. d | 5. c |
| 3. a | 6. e |

5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas about each statement and encourage them to say why they agree or disagree with each one.

Colombian library goes beyond books to keep stories alive

Level 2: Intermediate – Teacher's notes

6. In your own words

- a. This could also be done as a homework task.
There are several websites that give information about the Kankuamo areas of Colombia, including tourist information.